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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and the remarks to follow.

Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-23 have been cancelled, and claims 24-45 have been added to reorder the claims such that dependent claims follow the independent claims from which they depend. Claims 24-45 are pending this application.

Claims 5, 12 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2ND paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. New claims 27, 34 and 41, generally correspond to old claims 5, 12 and 19, respectively. Claims 27, 34 and 41 have been rewritten to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2ND paragraph.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,715,496 to Sawada et al. New claim 24 generally corresponds to old claim 3. The rejection is believed to be in error.

Claim 24 recites a method of scheduling an event with respect to a hard copy output engine including a sensor, comprising detecting status information relating to the hard copy engine using the sensor, including status of a future need for maintenance of the hard copy output engine and billing information for job accounting, composing an electronic message including the detected status, and transmitting the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

The Sawada et al. reference fails to provide detecting status information relating to the hard copy engine using the sensor, including status of a future need for maintenance of the hard copy output engine and billing information for job accounting, as recited in combination with the other features of claim 24.

Therefore, claim 24 is allowable.

As claims 25-30 depend on claim 24, they too are allowable.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,715,496 to Sawada et al. New claim 31 generally corresponds to old claim 10. The rejection is believed to be in error.

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Claim 31 recites an article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein to cause a processor to detect a status of a portion of the hard copy output engine from a sensor incorporated in the hard copy output engine, the detecting a status including detecting a future need for preventative maintenance and billing information for job accounting, compose an electronic message including the detected status, and transmit the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

The Sawada et al. reference fails to provide detecting a status including detecting a future need for preventative maintenance and billing information for job accounting, as recited in combination with the other features of claim 31.

Therefore, claim 31 is allowable.

As claims 32-37 depend on claim 31, they too are allowable.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,715,496 to Sawada et al. New claim 38 generally corresponds to old claim 17. The rejection is believed to be in error.

Claim 38 recites a computer implemented control system for a hard copy output engine, the system comprising a plurality of sensors coupled to the hard copy output engine, the sensors being configured to provide status information relating to various aspects of the hard copy output engine, and processing circuitry coupled to the sensors and configured to read the sensors and detect the status of the various aspects of the hard copy engine, the aspects including the need for preventative maintenance and billing information for job accounting, compose an electronic message including the detected status, and transmit the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

The Sawada et al. reference fails to provide sensors being configured to provide status information relating to various aspects of the hard copy output engine, the aspects including the need for preventative maintenance and billing information for job accounting, as recited in combination with the other features of claim 38.

Therefore, claim 38 is allowable.

As claims 39-43 depend on claim 38, they too are allowable.

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Additional new claims 44-45 have been added. Examination on the merits is requested. New claims 44-45 distinguish over the art of record and are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 24-45 is requested. The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned in the event that the next Office Action is one other than a Notice of Allowance. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 19, 2002

By



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PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. -10003228-1

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S): Robert E. Haines

SERIAL NO.: 09/733,421

GROUP ART UNIT: 2852

FILED: December 8, 2000

EXAMINER: S. Brase

SUBJECT: "Consumables/Printer Management System With Task and Calendar Links"

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE ACCOMPANYING RCE
FILING

The claims have been amended as follows. Underlines indicate insertions and strikeouts indicate deletions.

In the Claims

Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-23 have been cancelled.

New claims 24-45 have been added.

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